

## Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CTME-00 COME-00 EB-08 STR-07  
AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11  
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /068 W  
-----076258 230527Z /11  
R 221802Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7078

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PASS SPECIAL CUSTOMS STEEL TASK FORCE

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS ETRD, EIND, AR  
SUBJECT TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM - SPECIAL "FOREIGN INDUSTRY  
QUESTIONNAIRE"

REF: A STATE 157105, B BUENOS AIRES 5064

1. EMBOFF HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT DATA REQUESTED  
REFTEL OVER PAST FEW WEEKS. DETAILED PRICE LISTS PLUS  
"EXTRA" PERCENTAGES CHARGED WILL BE POOCHED TO SPECIAL  
CUSTOMS STEEL TASK FORCE, AS WELL AS THE LATEST STEEL  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORTS, DATED 1976-1977.  
COMPANY ANNUAL REPORTS ARE ISSUED AT END OF CALENDAR  
YEAR FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING THE PRIOR JUNE. CONSEQUENTLY,  
THE 1977-1978 REPORTS FOR STEEL COMPANIES WILL BE SENT  
WHEN AVAILABLE IN DECEMBER 1978.

2. REGARDING PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR SECOND QUARTER,  
670,400 METRIC TONS OF STEEL WERE PRODUCED DURING THIS  
PERIOD. OF THE 638,800 METRIC TONS OF FINISHED HOT  
ROLLED PRODUCTS PRODUCED, 357,700 METRIC TONS WERE  
NON-FLAT PRODUCTS AND 281,100 METRIC TONS WERE FLAT  
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PRODUCTS (THIS FIGURE IS SOMEWHAT DISTORTED BECAUSE IT  
INCLUDES THE EQUIVALENT PRODUCTION OF IMPORTED HOT  
ROLLED COILS USED TO MAKE COLD ROLLED PRODUCTS). IN  
ADDITION, 202,800 METRIC TONS OF COLD ROLLED FLAT  
PRODUCTS WERE PRODUCED DURING THIS PERIOD. MORE  
DETAILED PRODUCTION FIGURES OF STEEL PRODUCTS AND US  
EXPORT LEVELS WILL BE POUCHED.

3. A CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM USED BY THE GOA FOR STEEL PRODUCTS WILL ALSO BE SENT. THIS INCLUDES INFORMATION ON WHETHER THE STEEL CATEGORY IS PRODUCED LOCALLY AND IF SO WHICH COMPANIES PRODUCE IT. PRICE DATA WILL BE SUBMITTED FOR AS MANY PRODUCTS AS POSSIBLE WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE CATEGORIES WITH NOTATION MADE FOR THOSE PRODUCTS NOT PRODUCED IN ARGENTINA.

4. IT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO GET ANY COST OF PRODUCTION DATA; THIS INFORMATION IS VERY CLOSELY GUARDED. ALSO, SPECIAL STEEL CUSTOM TASK FORCE SHOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT THE PESO APPEARS TEMPORARILY OVER-VALUED IN TERMS OF DOLLARS BECAUSE OF THE LARGE AGRICULTURE SURPLUS FOR EXPORT AND THE RELATIVELY LOW DEMAND FOR IMPORTS BECAUSE OF THE RECESSION. THUS PRICES EXPRESSED IN DOLLARS ARE MISLEADINGLY HIGH. IN ADDITION, DUE TO ARGENTINAS EXTREMELY HIGH INFLATION RATE, PRICES CHANGE ON THE AVERAGE OF ONCE A MONTH SO THE FIGURES SUPPLIED SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AS AN APPROXIMATION OF WHAT STEEL PRICES ACUTUALLY ARE.  
CASTRO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STEEL, PRODUCTION, COSTS, MARKETS, PRICE DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BUENOS06480  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Message ID:** e2bebf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION TRSE  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1652511  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRIGGER PRICE MECHANISM - SPECIAL "FOREIGN INDUSTRY QUESTIONNAIRE"  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EIND, AR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e2bebf5d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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